

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-07 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09
OES-07 INT-05 IO-13 /060 R

DRAFTED BY L/OES:DACOLSON:MCP

APPROVED BY L/FELDMAN

INR - MR. HODGSON

EA - MR. WILLIAMS

OES - MR. SCULLY

-----040242Z 060433 /12

R 031720Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SUVA

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, EFIS

SUBJECT: MARITIME BOUNDARY WITH TONGA

REF: SUVA 599

1. DEPT. APPRECIATES REPORT REFTEL AND HOPES THAT BOUNDARY AGREEMENT CAN BE ENTERED INTO WITH TONGA WITH MINIMUM AMOUNT OF DIFFICULTY. DEPT. PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING TWO-PHASE COURSE OF ACTION.

2. IN THE FIRST PHASE, DEPT. WILL POUCH TO EMBASSY THE RELEVANT MAPS ALONG WITH AN EXPLANATION OF HOW THE EQUIDISTANT LINE BETWEEN TONGA AND AMERICAN SAMOA HAS BEEN DETERMINED. THIS MATERIAL WILL BE POUCHED DURING THE WEEK OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JUNE 6-10. ALSO, DEPT. WILL SEEK CIRCULAR 175 AUTHORITY FOR NEGOTIATION AND CONCLUSION OF THIS AGREEMENT, AND WILL CONSULT WITH AFFECTED AMERICAN SAMOAN INTERESTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL.

3. UPON RECEIPT OF POUCHED INFORMATION AND NOTIFICATION OF

CIRC. 175 APPROVAL, AND ANY OTHER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS, EMB. SHOULD INITIATE CONSULTATIONS WITH GOT REGARDING USG PROPOSED LINE. EMB. SHOULD ALSO DETERMINE WHAT "FURTHER DISCUSSIONS", IF ANY, ARE REQUIRED BY GOT.

4. IF AFTER THE FIRST CONSULTATIVE PHASE THE GOT FINDS THE LINE PROPOSED BY THE USG ACCEPTABLE, THE DEPT. WILL CABLE TEXT OF A BOUNDARY AGREEMENT FOR EMBASSY'S USE WITH GOT IN SECOND NEGOTIATING PHASE. SHOULD GOT HAVE DIFFICULTY EITHER WITH OUR PROPOSED LINE OR THE LANGUAGE OF OUR PRO-

POSED AGREEMENT, WE WILL HAVE TO HANDLE THOSE EVENTUALITIES AS THEY ARISE.

5. UNTIL POUCHED MATERIAL ARRIVES, EMBASSY SHOULD KNOW THAT EQUIDISTANT LINE BETWEEN TONGA AND AMERICAN SAMOA CONSISTS OF STRAIGHT LINES CONNECTING THE FOLLOWING COORDINATES:

- (A) 15 DEGREES 50'12"S; 171 DEGREES 50'44"W
- (B) 15 DEGREES 50'48"S; 171 DEGREES 50'23"W
- (C) 15 DEGREES 58'20"S; 171 DEGREES 46'06"W
- (D) 16 DEGREES 04'47"S; 171 DEGREES 42'37"W
- (E) 16 DEGREES 13'29"S; 171 DEGREES 37'41"W
- (F) 16 DEGREES 49'33"S 171 DEGREES 17'03"W

POINT (A) IS A TRIJUNCTION POINT, EQUALLY DISTANT FROM TONGA, AMERICAN SAMOA AND WESTERN SAMOA. POINT (F) IS A TRIJUNCTION POINT EQUALLY DISTANT FROM AMERICAN SAMOA, TONGA, AND THE NEW ZEALAND ISLAND OF NIUE.

FYI: EMB. SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT THESE COORDINATES ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BASED ON DATA AND CHARTS AVAILABLE TO USG THAT ARE IN SOME INSTANCES BASED ON OLD AND INACCURATE SURVEYS. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT IF THE AREA WAS RE-SURVEYED AND RECHARTED, SLIGHT VARIATIONS IN THE EQUIDISTANT LINE MIGHT OCCUR (TO THE EXTENT OF POSSIBLY SEVERAL MILES.) AN ISSUE FOR BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO DETERMINE IS WHETHER A MARITIME BOUNDARY SHOULD BE PROVISIONAL IN NATURE LOOKING TOWARD A MORE PRECISE DELIMITATION AFTER TECHNICAL WORK IS COMPLETED, OR WHETHER WE SHOULD ENTER A FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE BASIS OF KNOWN INFORMATION. EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF THIS POINT WOULD BE APPRECIATED, AS PROVISIONAL OR FINAL NATURE OF THIS AGREEMENT WILL BE AN ISSUE TO BE NEGOTIATED WITH TONGA END FYI.

6. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO KEEP DEPT. CLOSELY INFORMED. IF GOT IS REPRESENTED AT ONGOING LOS CONFERENCE, DEPT OFFICIALS WILL BE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH TONGAN LOS EXPERTS IN NEW YORK, AND THIS INFORMAL AVENUE COULD BE OF USE IN RESOLVING ANY SUBSTANTIVE OR PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT

ARISE ON THE BILATERAL BOUNDARY MATTER. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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